

X-MEN®

ISSUE 207



RATED T+



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MESSIAH COMPLEX

chapter thirteen

CAREY

MARVEL

BACHALO

After M-Day, mutantkind neared extinction. Once hailed as humanity's replacement, it appeared mutants, now reduced to a few hundred, would fade into oblivion. But a new mutant baby has arrived, the first since M-Day, and with it, hope for mutantkind.

Previously in MESSIAH COMPLEX...

It all comes down to this battle. It is X-Men vs. Marauders and the fate of the baby is at stake. As the battle began, the students of the Xavier Institute discovered the mutant-hunting beast Predator X in the school's private graveyard. In a panic, Pixie transported the team and, when the effects of her spell cleared, the New X-Men kids found themselves in the middle of the Muir Island battle with Predator X in tow. The battle now seems even, but Bishop, who secretly plans to kill the child, managed to slip away in the confusion.

Meanwhile Mystique, after assassinating Mr. Sinister, attempted to use the child to heal her adoptive daughter Rogue, knowing the process might kill the baby. But Gambit, Mystique's coconspirator and Rogue's former lover, had a change of heart. He seized the child and handed it off to Professor X who then gave it to Cable for safe keeping. But just as Cable went to escape with the baby into the future, he was confronted not only by Bishop, but a hungry Predator X.

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CLICK
CLICK
CLICK





LOGAN,
YOU AND YOUR
X-FORCE FIND
PREDATOR X AND
TAKE IT DOWN.

YOU
GOT IT,
SLIM.

ARE
YOU INSANE,
SUMMERS?
YOU NEED US
HERE.

NO, I DON'T.
I'VE GOT THAT
COVERED.



EMMA, ARE
YOU HEARING ME?
TELL THE STUDENTS
TO TARGET THE
MARAUDERS.

THE STUDENTS?
SCOTT, I TOLD THEM
TO STAY BACK, OUT
OF DANGER.

NEGATIVE.

SINISTER'S
PEOPLE KNOW US
INSIDE AND OUT.
THEY'VE SPENT YEARS
TRAINING TO
FACE US.



"LET'S THROW THEM
SOMETHING THEY
WON'T SEE COMING."



I'LL SAY
THIS ABOUT
FIGHTING
MONSTERS.

AT LEAST
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
BOTHR WITH
THE WITTY
BANTER.

SMASH!



UHM--OKAY,
WOUNDING THIS
THING ISN'T GOING
TO GET US
ANYWHERE.

ANYONE
GOT ANY
BETTER--



LIFFFF!

IT'S OVER,
NATHAN.

GIVE
ME THE
BABY.

SCOTT--

SHE'S THE
FUTURE. THE ONE
WHO SAVES US. AND
IF SHE STAYS HERE--
SHE'LL DIE.

YOU
DON'T KNOW
THAT.

YES I
DO.

FOR GOD'S
SAKE, LOOK
AROUND
YOU!

EVERYBODY
HAS A PLAN. AN
AGENDA. EVERYBODY
WANTS TO STAKE A
CLAIM, OR TO TAKE
HER OUT OF THE
EQUATION.

SHE WON'T
LAST A DAY HERE,
WHATEVER YOU DO
OR DON'T DO.

IF YOU WERE
GOING TO PULL
THAT TRIGGER,
YOU'D HAVE DONE
IT BY NOW.

SCOTT--
DAD--PLEASE.
PLEASE DON'T
MAKE ME--

CABLE.

DO AS SCOTT
SAYS. GIVE HIM
THE BABY.

"LET HIM SEE
WHAT HE'S BEEN
FIGHTING FOR."





WAIT. WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME?

WHERE
AM I?

IT WAS
DESTINY,
MY BELOVED
IRENE.

STRAIN 88,
THE HECATOMB,
SHE SAW IT ALL.
AND WHAT IT WOULD
TAKE TO SAVE
YOU.

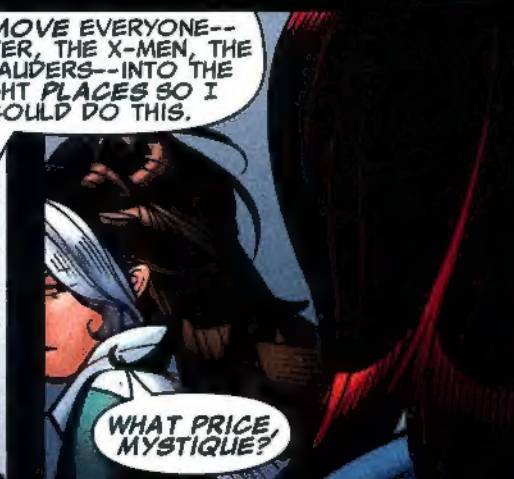
A TERRIBLE
PRICE, BUT IT
WORKED. IT WAS ALL
WORTHWHILE.

THAT
WAS WHAT HER
DIARIES WERE FOR.
TO MAKE THIS
HAPPEN.



WHAT
PRICE?

TO MOVE EVERYONE--
SINISTER, THE X-MEN, THE
MARAUDERS--INTO THE
RIGHT PLACES SO I
COULD DO THIS.



WHAT PRICE,
MYSTIQUE?



THE
BABY, I
HAD TO
USE--



YOU
KILLED A
CHILD?

NO, IT--IT SURVIVED
YOUR TOUCH,
SOMEHOW. IT'S
ALIVE.



AND
THAT'S WHAT?
A--A HAPPY
ENDING?



THUKK



OH GOD, RAVEN
WE CAN'T DO THIS
ANY MORE.

EVEN WHEN
YOU TRY TO HELP
ME, PEOPLE GET
CAUGHT IN BETWEEN
US, AND--THEY GET
HURT. THEY GET
KILLED.



THIS HAS
TO BE THE
LAST TIME,
MOTHER.





DID THEY
RUN OUT OF
FULL-SIZED
X-MEN?
THEY'RE
SENDING IN THE
KINDERGARTEN
CLASS NOW?



WELL, I HOPE
YOU REMEMBERED
TO BRING YOUR
LUNCH MONEY,
KIDDO.

THOK



AND YOUR
WARM, WOOLLY
MITTENS. AND
YOUR BEST--



SKOWW

GUUUH!



--SOUL-
DAGGER?

YEAH. I
BROUGHT
THAT.

A PLAUSIBLE
TACTIC, EMMA
FROST.

TO ENGAGE
ME IN TELEPATHIC
COMBAT SO THAT I
CAN'T DEPLOY MY
OTHER POWERS.

BUT IT CUTS BOTH
WAYS. ♪COUGH♪ YOU
CANNOT ASSUME YOUR
DIAMOND FORM.

AND WHEN YOU
FALL, ♪COUGH♪ WHO
IS THERE LEFT HERE
TO STAND BETWEEN
THE X-MEN AND MY
JUDGMENT?

ACTUALLY--

--YOU'VE BEEN
BREATHING HER IN
FOR THE LAST
THREE MINUTES.

SAND GRAINS.
SILICATE CRYSTAL
WITH A CUTTING
EDGE BARELY TWENTY
MICRONS WIDE--
NATURE'S LITTLE
SHURIKENS.

♪HHKKK!♪

BUT I'M SURE
YOUR LUNGS WILL
PATCH UP AS GOOD
AS NEW WITH A LITTLE
PRAYER AND FASTING,
MONSIEUR DU
PARRIS.

WHY DID YOU
TAUNT HIM, MISS
FROST? I TOOK
NO PLEASURE IN
HIS PAIN.

DIDN'T YOU,
SOORAYA? WELL,
DON'T FRET.

I TOOK
ENOUGH FOR
BOTH OF US.



PROFESSOR,
I THOUGHT YOU
UNDERSTOOD
HOW MUCH IS AT
STAKE HERE.

I THOUGHT
YOU BELIEVED
ME.

I DO, NATHAN.
BUT SCOTT'S RIGHT.
THIS ISN'T MY CHOICE.
OR YOURS.

THE FUTURE
IS WHAT'S AT STAKE--
BUT NOT JUST YOURS
OR MINE. THE FUTURE
OF OUR KIND.

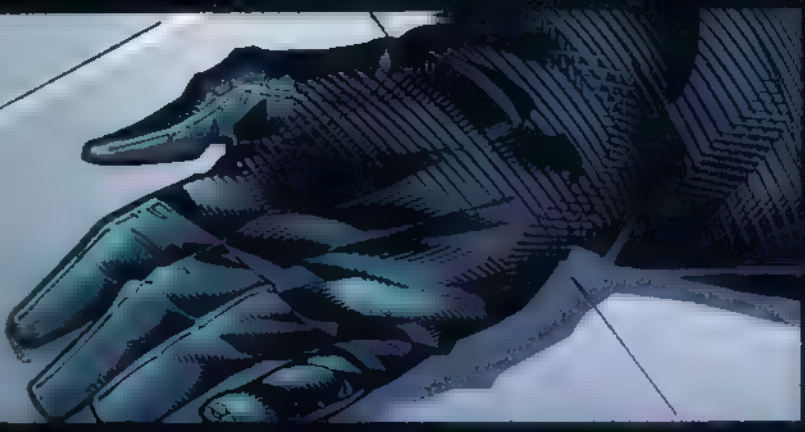


SCOTT IS THE LEADER
OF THE X-MEN. HE MUST
SPEAK FOR US ALL.

YOU'VE DONE
YOUR PART AND
HAD YOUR SAY.



GIVE
HIM THE
BABY.




ANNA,
YOU CAN'T
DO THIS.


YOU CAN'T
DO THIS AND
LIVE WITH
YOURSELF!



AH DON'T
HAVE A CHOICE,
RAVEN.



YOU DIDN'T
LEAVE ME A
CHOICE.



AH GUESS
AH LOVE YOU.
HOW CAN AH NOT
LOVE YOU?

AH GUESS AH'LL
NEVER FORGIVE
MAHSELF, LIKE
YOU SAY.



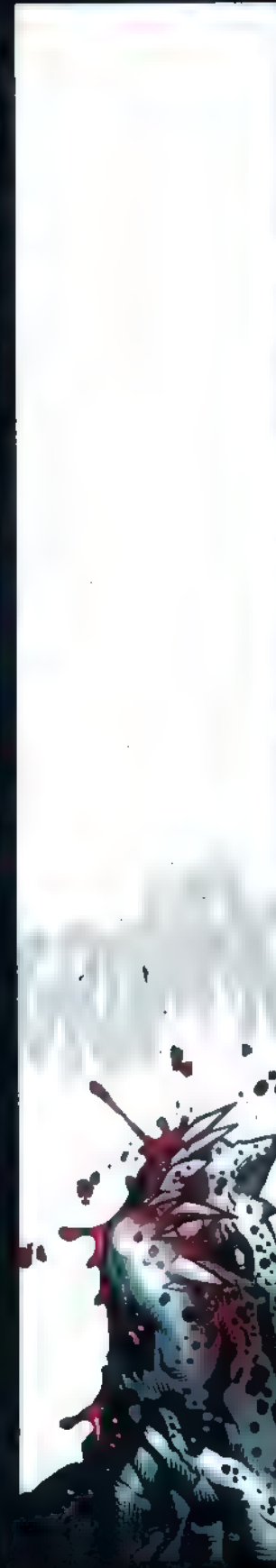
BUT AH'LL
REMEMBER
YOU.

NO!
ANNA,
NO!

AH'LL KEEP
YOU IN MAH
HEART, AND
MAH SOUL.



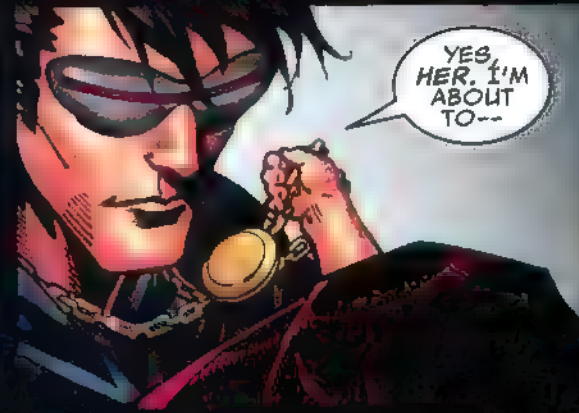
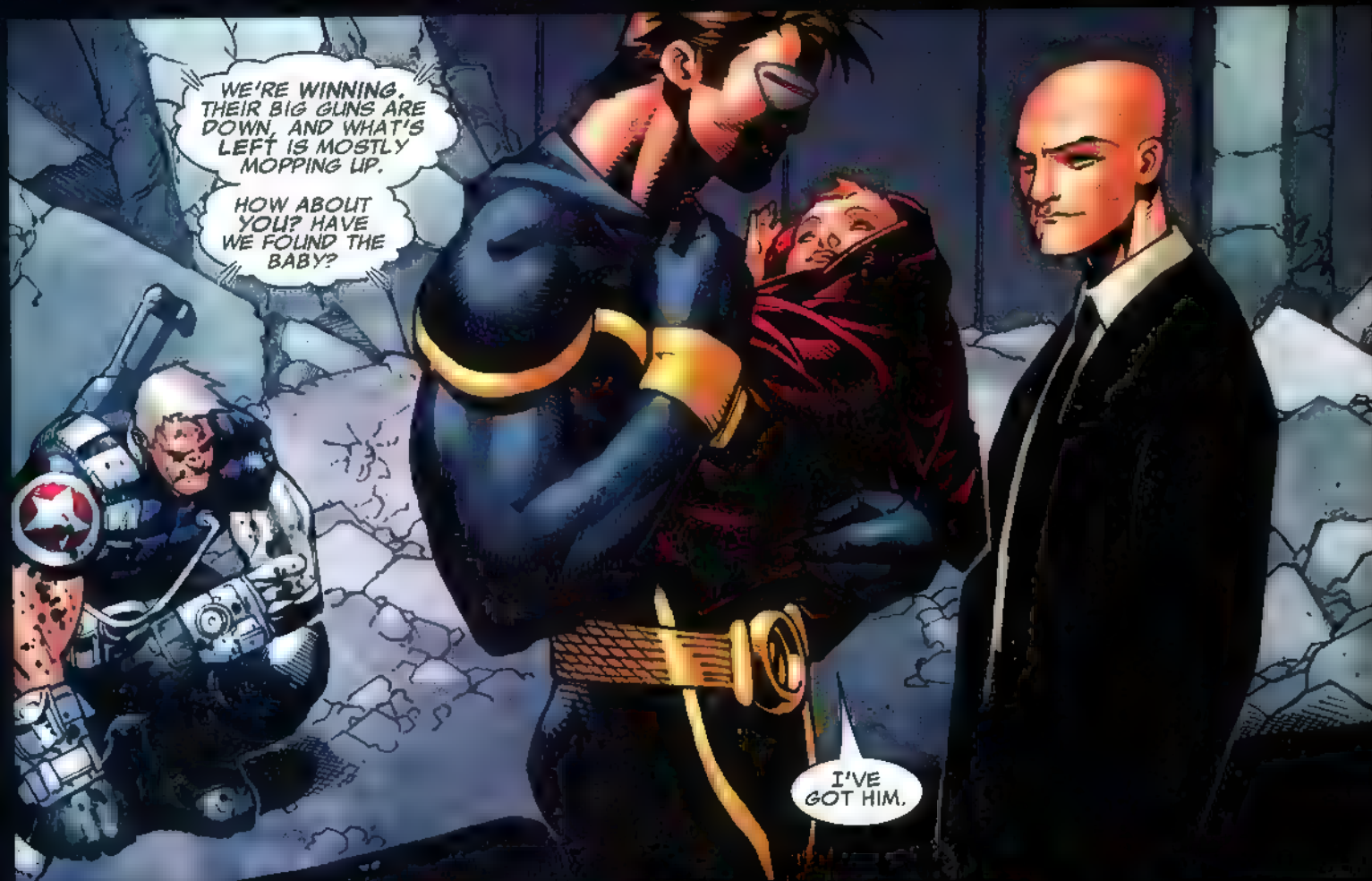
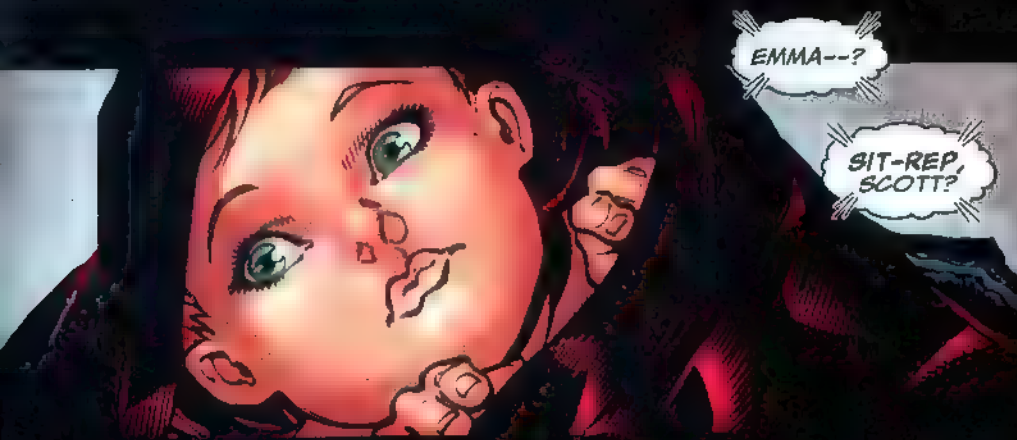
ALONG
WITH EVERYONE
ELSE.







BUT
LIKE THEY
SAY:
BEAUTY'S
ONLY SKIN-
DEEP.





WHEN HE'S CURED-- YOU'LL BRING HIM BACK?

NO.
IF YOU EMBRACE THIS PATH, HE WILL BE LOST TO YOU FOREVER.

DON'T LEAVE! I CAN'T DO IT ALONE!

YOU'LL NEVER BE ALONE, SON.

SCOTT? YOUR HEART RATE IS SPIKING AND YOU DIDN'T FINISH YOUR SENTENCE. SHOULD I WORRY?

NO. EVERYTHING'S FINE. I'M JUST--
--ASSESSING THE SITUATION.

LIVE, SCOTT.

LIVE.

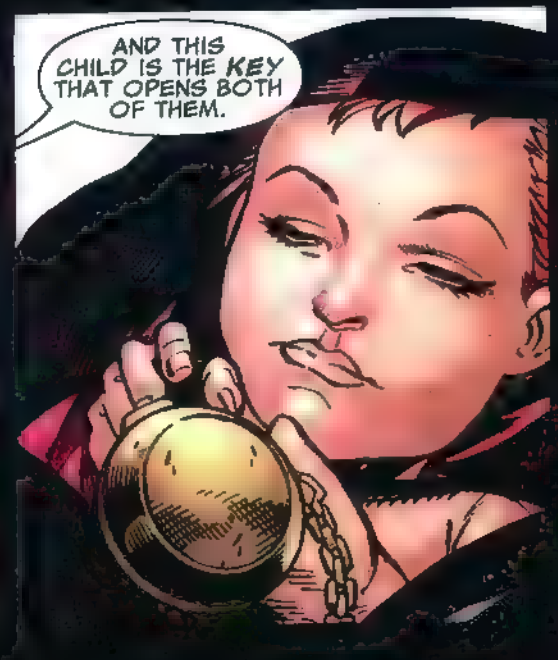
ALL I EVER DID WAS DIE ON YOU.



YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE FUTURE, SCOTT. YOU CAN ONLY ALLOW IT TO BE BORN.

THEM. NOT IT. THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE FUTURES.

YES, THERE ARE. AT LEAST TWO.



AND THIS CHILD IS THE KEY THAT OPENS BOTH OF THEM.



YOU GOT
NOTHIN' TO
SAY, REMY?

NONE
OF US PURE,
CHÈRE.

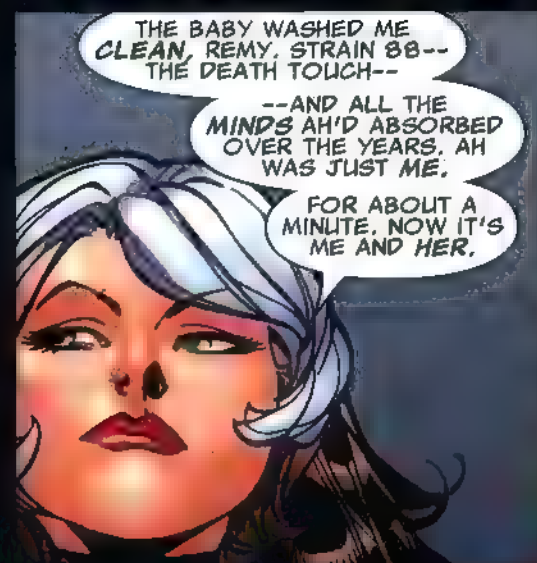


SHE AIN'T
DEAD.

BUT--I
SAW YOUR
HAND--

AH
TOUCHED
HER, YEAH. AND
AH GOT HER
MEMORIES.

BUT AH
REALIZED EVEN
AS AH WAS DOIN'
IT--AH DIDN'T
HAVE ANYONE
ELSE'S.



THE BABY WASHED ME
CLEAN, REMY. STRAIN 88--
THE DEATH TOUCH--

--AND ALL THE
MINDS AH'D ABSORBED
OVER THE YEARS. AH
WAS JUST ME.

FOR ABOUT A
MINUTE. NOW IT'S
ME AND HER.



BUT--THAT'S
WONDERFUL,
CHÈRE!

YEAH, AIN'T
IT? ONLY--IF
AH'D SEEN IT
SOONER--

--AH
WOULD'VE CUT
MAH OWN HAND
OFF SOONER'N
TOUCH HER.



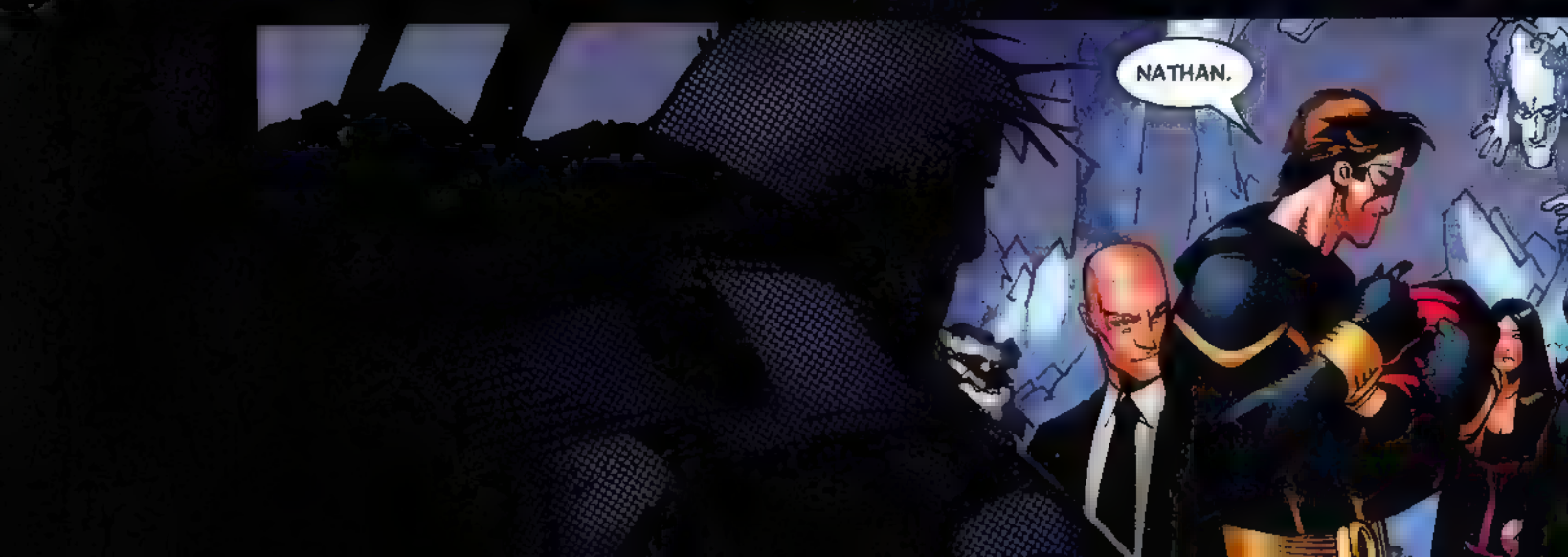
AH DON'T WANT TO
SEE HER AGAIN. TO BE
ANYWHERE NEAR HER.
BUT--SHE'S IN MAH
HEAD NOW...

AH--AH GOTTA
GO SOMEPLACE
QUIET. AH GOTTA
THINK.



IF YOU
STILL CARE
FOR ME,
REMY--

--DON'T
FOLLOW
ME.

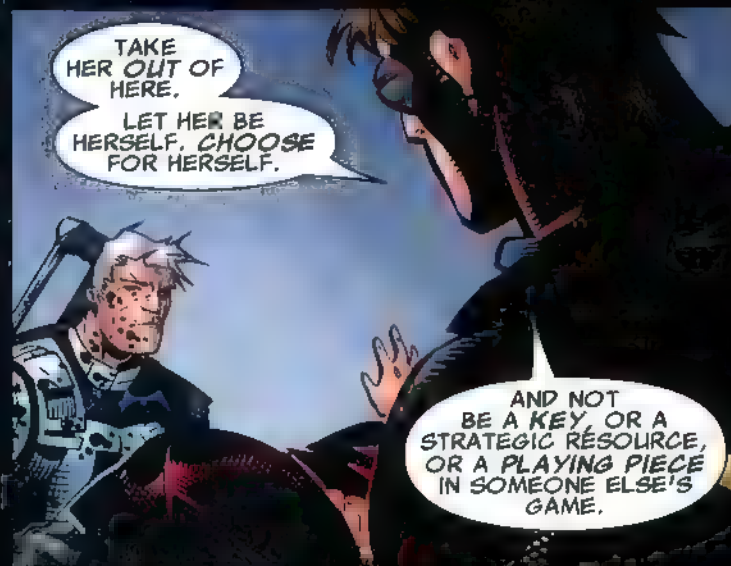




TAKE
HER.



WH-
WHAT?



TAKE
HER OUT OF
HERE.
LET HER BE
HERSELF. CHOOSE
FOR HERSELF.

AND NOT
BE A KEY, OR A
STRATEGIC RESOURCE,
OR A PLAYING PIECE
IN SOMEONE ELSE'S
GAME.



GIVE HER
THE FREEDOM I
WAS NEVER ABLE
TO GIVE YOU.



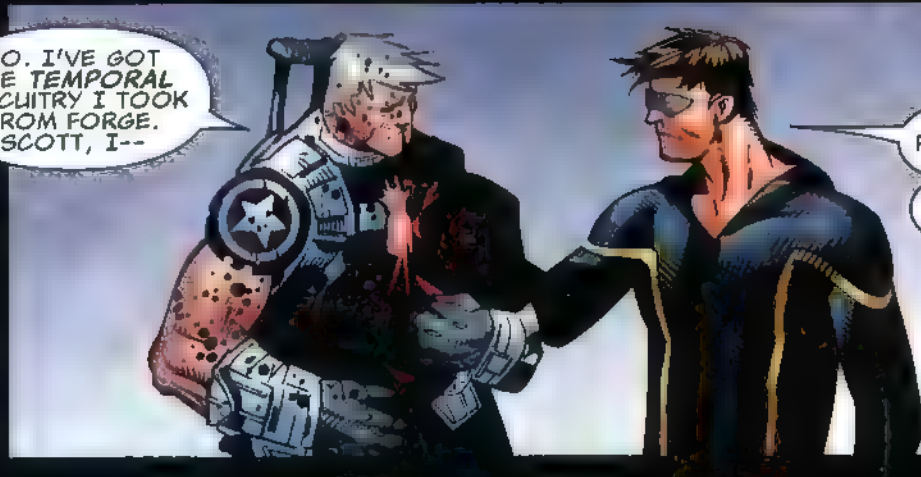
SUMMERS--

SCOTT--

LEAVE
IT. THIS IS
OVER.

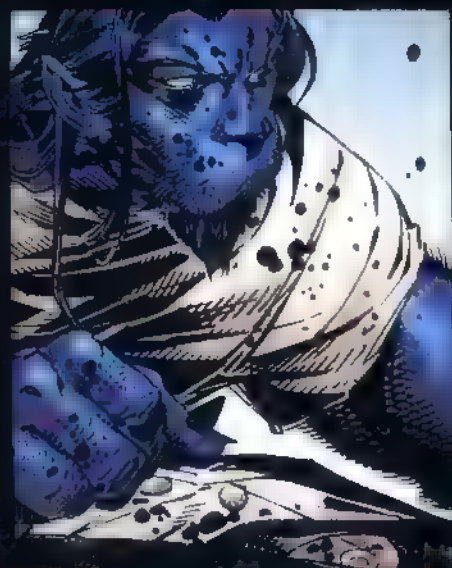
NATHAN, DO
YOU NEED ANY HELP
GETTING BACK TO
THE MAINLAND?

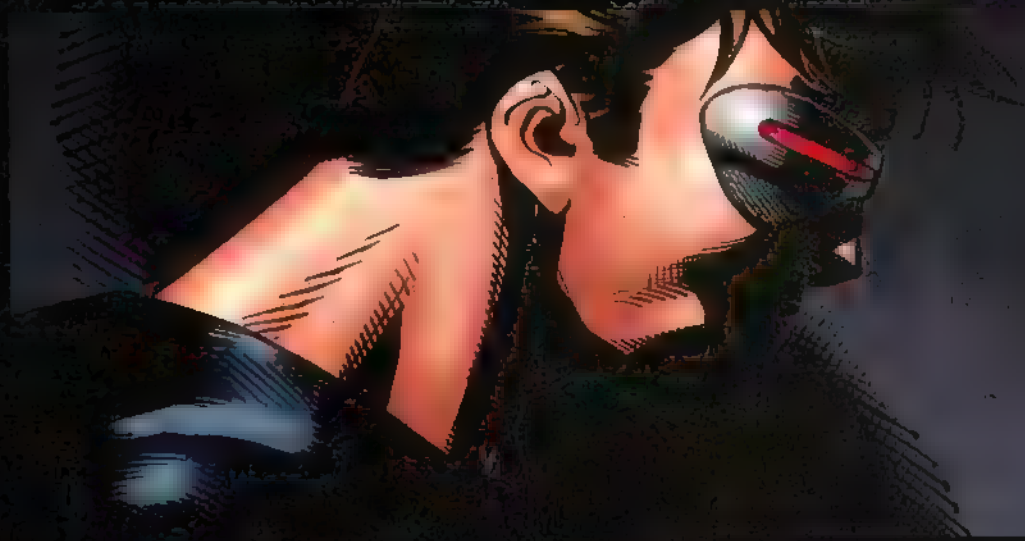
NO. I'VE GOT
THE TEMPORAL
CIRCUITRY I TOOK
FROM FORGE.
SCOTT, I--



SAVE IT
FOR A BETTER
TIME.
THIS ISN'T
GOODBYE.











X
THE
FUTURE.

SUN'S
COMING UP,
KID. WE
MADE IT.

NOW
COMES THE
HARD PART.

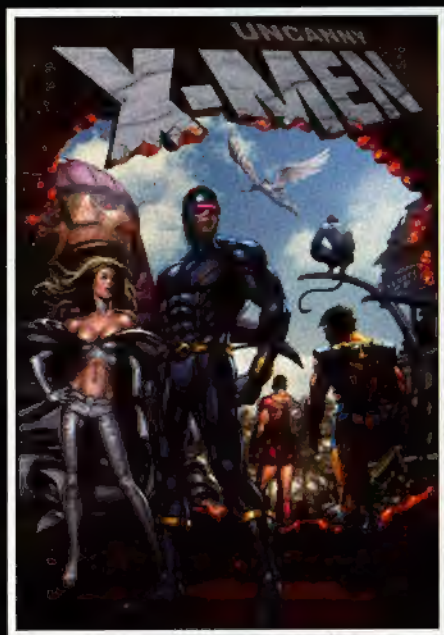


TOWNSEND

BP

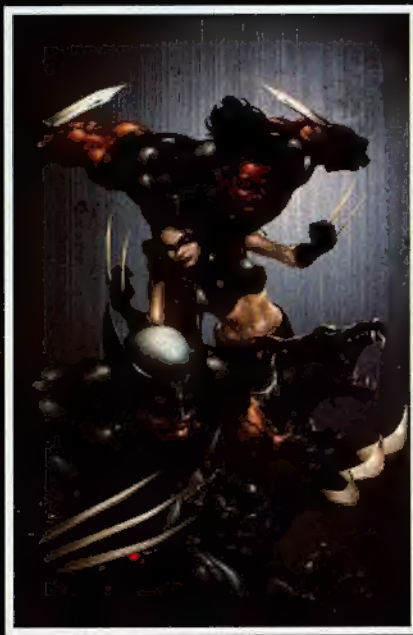
END.

X-MEN: DIVIDED WE STAND



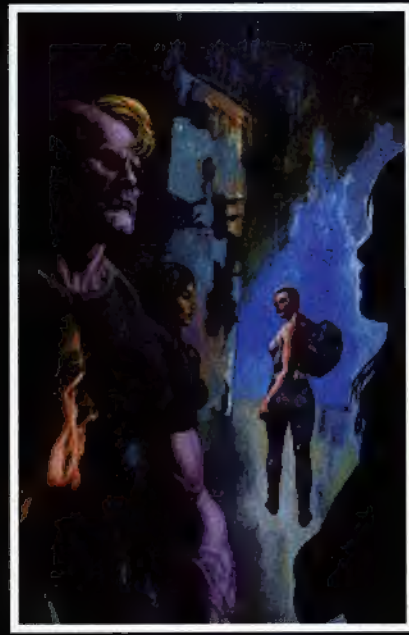
UNCANNY X-MEN #495

In the wake of Messiah Complex, the X-Men have disbanded. What is next for our wayward mutants? Find out in two weeks!



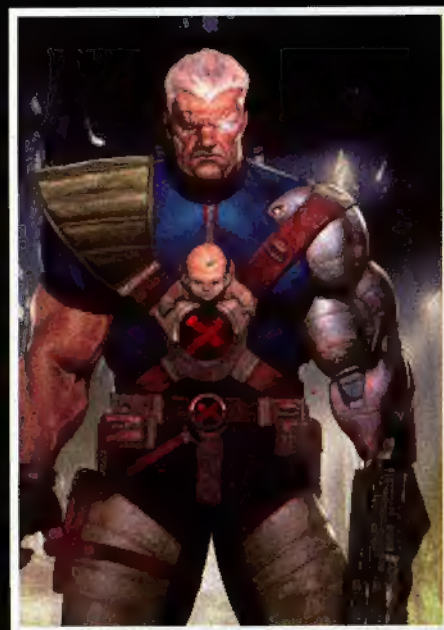
X-FORCE #1

The X-Men may be finished, but X-Force isn't. Wolverine and his black ops team go to tie up the loose end of the mutant hating religious group, the Purifiers. Don't miss this book!



X-FACTOR #28

After his return from the future, Madrox has only two goals in life: rescuing Layla and preventing the horrors he witnessed from ever happening. But to do so, can he stop his team from falling apart?



CABLE #1

The battle may be over but the war has only begun for this soldier. The time-jumping quest of Cable and the baby continues in March!



X-MEN LEGACY #208

What becomes of the world's most powerful telepath after his mind has been shattered by a bullet? Find out here!



YOUNG X-MEN #1

With the Xavier Institute destroyed, class is over for the student body. Until, that is, Cyclops taps them to hunt and eliminate the new Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Don't miss it when it comes out in April!